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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

February 22, 2011

Chairwoman Hartley, Chairman Dargan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Virginia Benedetto. I am from Stratford, CT, and I am the Technology Coordinator for the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. I am writing today to

OPPOSE

SB 1017 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR AMUSEMENT PARK OVERSIGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

The Board of Firearms Permit examiners is a Volunteer (and unpaid) board, with 1 paid staff member. This is most citizens last line of hope when they have been denied a permit to carry a firearm, or have had a permit to carry revoked. The board gives these citizens a fair and unbiased hearing, and in most cases eliminates the need for any further legal action.

By placing the administration of the Board of Firearms Permit examiners under the Department of Public Safety, the citizens of Connecticut will lose their chance at this fair and unbiased review, and will possibly be judged by the very department that had denied or revoked their permits. This would surely result in increased cost for the state of Connecticut due to citizens having to take further action when they feel they have had an injustice in their due process. For the current cost of this volunteer board with it's one paid administrative staff member, moving the administration to the DPS is not worth the cost in time, money, and effort to the citizens and the state.

Thank you.

Virginia Benedetto
Stratford, CT
Technology Coordinator
Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

**Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.**

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15